

National Aeronautics and Space Administration  
George C. Marshall Space Flight Center  
Marshall Space Flight Center, AL 35812



August 8, 2008

Reply to Attn of:

LS01(DMW)

MEMORANDUM FOR RECORD

FROM: LS01/ William J. Bierbower

SUBJECT: Approval for MSFC Employees to Attend a Barbecue Social  
sponsored by United Space Alliance

In accordance with 5 CFR § 2635.204(g)(2) and (3), I make the following determination:

NASA invitees, accompanied by their spouse or a guest, may attend a barbecue social sponsored by United Space Alliance (USA), held at the Alabama Space & Rocket Center on Monday, August 11, 2008, from 5:30pm until 8:00pm.

USA is one of the world's leading space operations companies. Established in 1995 as a Limited Liability Company, USA is headquartered in Houston, Texas and is equally owned by The Boeing Company and Lockheed Martin Corporation. USA is the prime contractor for the NASA Space Program Operations Contract (SPOC). SPOC is a 10-year contract requiring the provision of services related to human space operations primarily in support of the Space Shuttle and the International Space Station.

This event will be a widely-attended gathering of USA employees, industry partners, and MSFC personnel. There will not be a fee for attendance at the social, but an estimation for use of the facilities and provided meals are valued at \$20.00 per person. Approximately 100 individuals have been invited to attend. The social is fully funded by contributions from USA. I find that the reception meets the requirements of a "widely attended gathering" as defined in 5 CFR § 2635.204(g)(2).

I have determined that free attendance at the above mentioned social is in the interest of the agency because it will further agency programs and operations. The attendance of NASA employees at the event will help to raise NASA's profile with local business leaders, will contribute to community relations, and will support NASA's statutory mandate to disseminate information about its activities. Given the purpose of the event, the broad attendance anticipated, and the modest market value of this social event, I have determined that the value to the agency in having employees attend this event outweighs any concern that free attendance may or may appear to improperly influence them in the performance of their duties.

Accordingly, NASA employees that have been invited to attend may accept free attendance at the event. They may also accept invitations for accompanying spouses or guests. NASA employees who feel that their duties may in some way substantially affect United Space Alliance are not covered in this determination and should contact Devinti M. Williams, at (256) 544-0012, to seek a determination pursuant to 5 CFR § 2635.204(g)(3)(i), regarding their participation in this event.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'W. A. Bierbower', with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

William A. Bierbower  
Chief Counsel